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OCI 3961

AHIC(W)-D-10
26 February 1954

Document No. <u>11</u>	A D H O C
No Change In Class. <input type="checkbox"/>	I A C C O M M I T T E E
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified	(W A T C H)
Class. Changed to: TS S <u>1989</u>	
Next Review Date: <u>2/26/79</u>	
Auth.: HR 70-3	By: <u>229804</u>
Date: <u>2/26/79</u>	

(Extract from:
IAC-M-124
6 October 1953)

EXTRACT FROM

I N T E L L I G E N C E A D V I S O R Y C O M M I T T E E

Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's
Conference Room, [REDACTED]
Central Intelligence Agency, on 6 October 1953

25X1A

Director of Central Intelligence
Allen W. Dulles
Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Special Assistant, Intelligence,
Department of State
Major General Richard C. Partridge, Assistant Chief of
Staff, G-2, Department of the Army
Rear Admiral Carl F. Espe, Director of Naval Intelligence,
Department of the Navy
Major General John A. Sanford, Director of Intelligence,
Headquarters, United States Air Force
Dr. Charles H. Reichardt, Atomic Energy Commission
Representative to the IAC
Brigadier General Edward H. Porter, Deputy Director for
Intelligence, The Joint Staff
Mr. Meffert W. Kuhrtz, acting for Assistant to the Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALSO PRESENT

Lt. General Charles P. Cabell, Central Intelligence Agency
Mr. Robert Amory, Jr., Central Intelligence Agency
Dr. Sherman Kent, Central Intelligence Agency
Dr. H. Marshall Chadwell, Central Intelligence Agency
Mr. H. D. Sheldon, Central Intelligence Agency
Mr. Otto E. Guthe, Central Intelligence Agency

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Mr. James Q. Reber, Central Intelligence Agency
[REDACTED] Central Intelligence Agency
[REDACTED] Central Intelligence Agency
[REDACTED] Central Intelligence Agency
[REDACTED] Central Intelligence Agency
[REDACTED] Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. William C. Trueheart, Department of State
Mr. Allan Evans, Department of State
Brigadier General John M. Willems, Department of the Army
Lt. Colonel T. C. Anderson, Department of the Army
Dr. Samuel McKee, Department of the Army
Captain Allan L. Reed, USN, Department of the Navy
Captain K. C. Hurd, USN, Department of the Navy
Colonel Donald H. Ainsworth, United States Air Force
Colonel John J. Morrow, United States Air Force
Colonel Robert Totten, United States Air Force
Colonel Charles F. Gillis, United States Air Force
Colonel George E. Perry, United States Air Force
Captain E. T. Layton, USN, The Joint Staff
Colonel Samuel M. Lansing, The Joint Staff

25X1A

[REDACTED]
Secretary

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Watch Committee
Indications Center

3. Action: Agreed to form a special committee to conduct a thorough and prompt review of the watch process and prepare recommendations for the IAC and, ultimately, the NSC. The committee will consider as an initial step a paper to be prepared and circulated by CIA and thereafter such other papers, including the subject proposal tabled by General Willems, as the agencies submit. The agencies are to nominate a highly placed officer to Mr. Huntington Sheldon, CIA/OCI, who will call the first meeting, at which time the committee will select a chairman and adopt its procedures.

4. Discussion: The DCI stated that he felt that the existing Watch Committee was a great improvement over the situation prior to its creation, but that developments over the past years (including the atomic progress of the USSR, the increasing problem of continental defense, and the concurrent growth in importance of economic and political factors) made it desirable to reexamine the scope and limitations of the watch process, how that process can best function, and what major problems are involved. It was the sense of the meeting that such a reexamination was desirable.

General Samford said that the watching process is a most difficult matter, and he was doubtful that we had even accurately defined the problem. It seemed to him, he said, that since the watching process inevitably transcends the ability of any one agency or of the military services, the broad leadership of the DCI was required. General Porter agreed that the leadership of CIA was needed in this important intelligence function. Mr. Dulles stated that he had no preconceived notions regarding the outcome of the special committee but felt that General Samford's remarks should be fully considered, along with other ideas, by that committee.

With respect to graphical or mathematical processing of indications, it was believed that these should be explored, but the danger of stressing such methods to the exclusion of analytical appraisal of the indicators and their implications was pointed out.

General Cabell emphasized that a distinction must be preserved between the process of watching and the process of estimating, and that, to assure that this distinction is maintained, clear terms-of-reference and procedures must be provided the watch mechanism.

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